



# STATE REPRESENTATIVE SHERRY APPLETON



## 23rd DISTRICT 2006 SESSION REVIEW

Dear neighbor,

It is my sincere honor to serve as your state Representative in Olympia. I had high hopes for 2006 and I am pleased to report that the 2006 legislative session was an extremely successful session for Kitsap businesses and families.

Here on the Peninsula, small business provides the goods and services we use every day. This is why I worked to give small business a boost by supporting common sense proposals that received wide, bi-partisan support. We were successful in passing a measure to provide more choices to small businesses when shopping for health insurance and we provided incentives to several types of business.

Locking up sex-offenders is a priority for all lawmakers in Olympia. We worked together with cops and prosecutors to write new laws to catch more sex-offenders, and get more convictions. The resulting legislation sets up some of the nation's toughest new minimum sentencing laws and protects victims who may be afraid to confront the perpetrator.

Health care and education were also top priorities for me during this past session. Great strides were made toward reaching our goal of insuring every child by 2010 by providing health insurance to an additional 7,000 low income children. We also approved several plans to help kids pass the WASL and succeed in the workforce. Every child is different but I believe every child in our state deserves a fair shot at passing the WASL.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your state Representative. I hope you find this update informative and I look forward to answering any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Sherry Appleton  
State Representative  
23rd Legislative District

### PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP

I was honored to accept Governor Gregoire's appointment to the Puget Sound Partnership. This partnership will engage an extensive cross-section of Washington citizens, business and governments in recommending how to improve protection and recovery of Puget Sound and Hood Canal. By bringing all voices to the table we will ensure the Sound is protected for years to come.



### COME JOIN ME FOR A TOWN HALL!

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 10TH.

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Bainbridge Island, Bainbridge Island Fire Department, Madison Ave. Station

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Poulsbo Library, 700 NE Lincoln Street, Poulsbo

#### SUNDAY, JUNE 11TH.

1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Silverdale Community Center, 9729 Silverdale Way NW, Silverdale

3:30 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Kitsap Unitarian Universalist Church, 4418 Perry Ave NE, Bremerton

### PROTECTING YOUR POCKETBOOK

#### Responsible Budgeting

Governments need to be responsible with their budgets. Families plan for the future and the state needs to do the same. This year's budget shows great fiscal responsibility. The Legislature saved \$2 for every \$1 spent, dedicating over \$900 million to help pay off future costs associated with our state's pension system, education funding, and health care programs. It does this without raising taxes. Working with our current voter-approved performance audit laws, this year's budget will help create stability for years to come.



#### Helping Seniors

All too often rising property values make it difficult for seniors on fixed incomes to make their property tax payments. I voted to reduce interest rates paid by senior citizens and disabled retirees in Washington's property-tax deferral program. Interest rates on deferred property-taxes will drop from eight percent to five percent, helping seniors stay in their homes.

### PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY

#### Investing in Education

Education is an important component of any successful economy. Over the past two years the Legislature made a tremendous investment in our schools.

- In the 2005-07 operating budget the Legislature respected the will of the voters, fully funding Initiatives 728—reducing class sizes, and 732—improving teacher pay.
- New Learning Assistance Program reforms will help Kitsap County schools by targeting funding to school districts with large numbers of low-income families.
- Overall, the 2005-07 Legislature increased state funding for Washington's public schools by \$1.45 billion – about \$1,490 per student. This means an estimated \$16 million in additional funding for our Kitsap County schools.

I'm grateful to the P.T.A., teachers, concerned parents, and others who supported our efforts to make 2006 a great year for children and public schools.

#### Locking up sex offenders

As a mother and grandmother I have always put the safety and well-being of our children as my top priority in Olympia. Catching, convicting, and locking up more sex offenders were high priorities for the 2006 Legislature. I supported a package of legislation to give police and prosecutors the tools necessary to keep these dangerous criminals away from our children. This legislation received unanimous support in the House and creates:

- tough new minimum sentencing requirements (25 years to life) for many child rapists,
- a measure requiring 24 hour electronic monitoring for sex-offenders who have completed their prison terms,
- the crime of communicating with a minor through email or a computer for immoral purposes, and
- Makes possession of child pornography as a sex offense.

#### Fighting Meth

Meth destroys families and ruins lives. It is costing taxpayers millions in law enforcement and other social costs. To try and stop this dangerous drug, we passed new regulations banning the sale





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SHERRY APPLETON

of ingredients commonly used in manufacturing meth: concentrated iodine and large quantities of MSM (a nutritional supplement for farm animals.) This legislation follows a state law passed last year requiring medicines containing pseudoephedrine (commonly found in cold and allergy medicine and used as a main ingredient of meth) to be kept behind the counters of businesses where it is sold.

PROTECTING OUR  
HEALTH AND  
LOWERING COSTS

Covering all Children

As a member of the Health Care Committee I have been working on finding ways to help families with health care costs. I voted to expand health care coverage for 80,000 additional children, building on our commitment to have every child covered by 2010.

Prescription Drugs

Making prescriptions drugs more affordable is a national problem that will require the nation to look toward a long-term solution. Unfortunately many seniors can't wait any longer for Congress to act; at the end of every month many must decide between filling prescriptions and buying food. Seniors are already traveling or using the internet to buy their prescription from Canada. To



help protect our citizen's safety, I introduced legislation to allow Canadian pharmacies to apply for and obtain Washington state licenses. Canadian pharmacies should have the ability to demonstrate that they are conducting their businesses in accordance with strict standards of the state Department of Health.

We also expanded the state's prescription drug purchasing consortium to allow uninsured Washingtonians – as well as private businesses – to join in bulk-purchasing discounts. Recent reports show that a similar program enacted by the state in 2003 is saving taxpayers \$60 million this budget cycle. The Health Care Authority expects our new Prescription Drug Purchasing Consortium to help 81,000 senior citizens and 122,000 younger uninsured individuals save money on their prescription medicines.

Finally, the Health Care Authority recently announced a new drug discount card that is available to any state resident. The card will reduce costs between 15 and 25 percent for prescription drugs not covered by insurance. The Rx Washington Card provides discounts at most mail order and retail pharmacies across the state. The annual membership fee is \$10 per person. Those interested in receiving an application for the program should call 1-866-576-3862, or go online at [www.rx.wa.gov](http://www.rx.wa.gov).

Protecting the Puget Sound

The fragile ecosystem in Puget Sound needs all the help it can get to prevent further damage. The recent spills on Indianola beaches gave us an up-close view of the devastation oil spills can cause. This year I worked with Senator Rockefeller to pass legislation to help protect our fragile Puget Sound. Our successful legislation requires the Department of Ecology to adopt procedures for evaluating oil spill contingency plans held by vessels. This legislation clarifies that all motor vehicles and all seagoing vessels that conduct ship refueling, bunkering, or lightering operations must comply with state laws governing oil spill containment and recovery. The department is also authorized to conduct random practice drills on vessels without prior notice and require additional containment safeguards as needed.

Protecting our Soldiers

When a soldier or sailor is away on deployment, the last thing their family needs is harassing phone calls from payday lenders. Currently, payday lenders are prohibited from harassing military personal, but in their eyes, spouses are still fair game. I introduced legislations to close this loophole and protect military families from late-night calls, offensive language and violent threats. Families of deployed personal are under enough stress and should not have to put up with these practices. My legislation passed with overwhelming support in the House but was killed by the payday lending industry in the Senate. Next year I will reintroduce my legislation and continue my work to protect military families.



ON THE HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE, SHERRY WORKS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO CARE AND LOWER THE COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.

JOBS: CREATING A  
POSITIVE BUSINESS  
ENVIRONMENT

Lower Business Taxes

Small business is the backbone of our economy. I voted to approve more than \$50 million in tax incentives to create additional jobs; including a new law to raise the small business personal-property tax exemption from \$3,000 to \$15,000.



Promoting new alternative energy

Kitsap SEED is a business park outside Bremerton that is expected to bring upwards of 2,000 jobs to the Kitsap County region. The 75 acre cutting-edge campus will act as a centrally located center for businesses that focus on the development and production new energy technologies. I was happy we were able to secure funding in the 2006 Capital Budget to get this new and exciting project off the ground.

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2006 SESSION REVIEW

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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